



**Southern California Association of
Marine Invertebrate Taxonomists**

3720 Stephen White Drive
San Pedro, California 90731

July 1990

Vol. 9, No.3

NEXT MEETING: Etymology *note Schedule Change*

GUEST SPEAKER: John Ljubenkov
MEC Analytical Systems Inc.

DATE: Monday, August 13, 1990, 9:30 A.M.

LOCATION: Cabrillo Maritime Museum
3720 Stephan White Drive
San Pedro, CA 90731

MINUTES FROM MEETING ON JULY 9, 1990

John Ljubenkov presented a workshop on hydroids. Much of the time was spent defining the characters that are commonly used to identify hydroids. The following are some of the characters and their definitions/illustrations.

Hydrothecae-

campanulariform	-bell/cup-shaped hydrothecae located on the terminal end of the stalk
sertulariform	-hydrothecae arranged on opposite sides of the stalk
plumulariform	-hydrothecae arranged in one row on the branches of the colony

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Hydrorhizae- colony shape/method of attachment

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| filiform | -colony forms a net on the surface of the substrate |
| lamelliform | -base of the stalk is disk-like |
| rhizoid | -root-like structures that anchor the hydroid in a mud substrate |

Stalk Structure-

- | | |
|--------------|-----------------------------------|
| monosiphonic | -single stalk supports the colony |
| polysiphonic | -multiple stalked, "fascicled" |

Ramification- "the branching pattern of the colony". These characters are essentially the same as in vascular plant taxonomy.

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| irregular | -  |
| whorled | -  |
| opposite | -  |
| alternate | -  |

Operculum position-

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| adcauline (adjacent) | - operculum attachment is closest to the stem |
| abcauline (opposite) | - operculum attachment is farthest from the stem |

Tentacle Structure-

- | | |
|--------------|--------------|
| filiform | -simple |
| monifiliform | -beaded |
| capitate | -bulbous tip |

John also showed some examples of local benthic hydroids. Much of the rest of the meeting time involved the identification of specimens provided by the participants.

Thank you John for a very informative session.

Etymology: During the June meeting, John raised the topic of the number of gender problems in species names occurring within many of the agency's species lists as well as the scientific literature. John also distributed an editorial he had written on this subject "A Note on the Use of Latin in Scientific Words". A short discussion followed that led to the designation of the August SCAMIT meeting to Etymology and correction of agency's species lists. A Note on the Use of Latin in Scientific Words by John Ljubankov has been included in the newsletter.

Schedule Change: The Scaleworm meeting originally scheduled for August 13, 1990 has been rescheduled for September 10, 1990. A meeting on Etymology will be substituted for the August meeting.

Barnard Meeting Note: A Barnard amphipod workshop has been scheduled for the December SCAMIT meeting. As a result there have been some changes to the original schedule. The Orchomene and Hippomedon meeting scheduled for October has been rescheduled for December so as to coincide with the Barnard amphipod workshop. The Sponge meeting originally scheduled for December has been rescheduled for May 1991.

The following topics will replace those topics listed in the schedule in the SCAMIT Newsletter Vol 9, No 1.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Presenter</u>
8/13/90	Etymology	John Ljubankov, MEC Analytical
9/10/90	Scaleworms	Ross Duggan, City of San Diego
10/15/90	<u>Epitonium</u>	Helen DuShane, L.A. Co. Museum
11/??/90	Spionidae	Larry Lovell, Private Consultant
12/10/90 12/11/90	Amphipod Workshop & <u>Orchomene</u> and <u>Hippomedon</u>	J.L. Barnard, Smithsonian Institution James Thomas, Reef Foundation Florida Doug Diener, MEC Analytical Ron Velarde, City of San Diego



Amphipod Indexes: Two new marine amphipod indexes (J.L. Barnard and C.M. Barnard) are now available. If you are interested, the information for acquiring the indexes is included in the newsletter.

Picnic Reminder: Remember to mark your calendars for the annual SCAMIT picnic to be held Saturday, August 18, 1990 at Doheny State Beach. We are planning to eat at about 1:00 so try to arrive early so you can avoid any traffic or parking problems, be there for fun and games, and best of all, you get the better pick of the eats! SCAMIT will provide the main course and the drinks. SCAMIT members will provide the side dishes. If you are planning to attend, please let Larry Lovell at (619) 945-1608, know how many people there will be in your party and what side dish you will be bringing. Have Fun!

SCAMIT Officers: If you need any other information concerning SCAMIT please feel free to contact any of the officers.

Officers

President	Ron Velarde	(619) 226-0164
Vice-President	Larry Lovell	(619) 945-1608
Secretary	Ross Duggan	(619) 226-8175
Treasurer	Ann Martin	(213) 648-5317

A NOTE ON THE USE OF LATIN IN SCIENTIFIC WORDS.

Latin is a language in which every noun has a sex or gender. Each noun is either masculine, feminine, or neuter and there is no way to guess by the meaning of the word what gender it is. An adjective which modifies a noun must end in the proper ending for that gender. Therefore, the ending of a species name, if it is an adjective or a participle in the nominative singular, must have the proper ending. The problem for SCAMIT members comes when a species is placed in another genus whose name is a different gender than the original genus name of the taxon. Article 31(b) of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature is quite specific in stating that this must be done. To do otherwise causes many other problems in the citations of scientific names, and makes the author of the mistakes appear ignorant of the rules.

A Latin dictionary, for example Langescheid's, and the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature are indispensable works to aid the taxonomist in determining the correct endings. The basic procedure may be summed thusly:

Step 1: Determine the gender of the genus. In the dictionary all nouns have an m, f, or n cited to indicate gender.

Step 2: Determine the root of the adjective which forms the species name and add -us for male, -a for female, and -um for neuter names.

There are two main exceptions:

1: Nouns in apposition - The ICZN gives an example of a species name phobifer which actually could be either an adjective translated as "fear bearing" or a noun in apposition, in which case it would be translated as "The Fear Bearer". If it is a noun then the ending will not change with a generic name of another gender. If it is taken as an adjective, one of the above mentioned endings must be appended. Authors should be specific about usages in cases such as this or rulings will be made by grammarians from the International Commission.

2: Nouns in the Genitive - The genitive case denotes possession and is translated "of (a name)" or by adding " 's " to the name. If the name is feminine the ending -ae is appended, e.g. myrae ("of Myra" or "Myra's") or idae ("of Ida" or "Ida's"). If the name is masculine -i is appended, e.g. hyperioni ("of Hyperion"). If the name is in honor of two men or a man and a woman the ending is -orum, e.g. berkeleyorum, and in the case of two or more women the ending is -arum, but unfortunately no examples come to mind. These endings do not change with the gender of the generic name.

The correct application of the rules of Latin to scientific

names depend on taxonomists recognizing the roots which compose the names they use. This can often be a tricky procedure when the names are composed of more than one root. Let us take the latin word maculus, meaning a spot. This is a noun whose gender is masculine. When an adjective is formed from this word, the root to which the endings are added is maculat-. This means the word is actually changed around so that it may accept different endings in a way unpredictable to the inexperienced student. The ICZN gives a list of examples of these changing endings. Now, if we wish to construct the phrase "the spotted man", we take the word vir which means "man" and is masculine and add maculatus (with the masculine adjectival ending) and we have vir maculatus, the spotted man.

There are other rules to remember in the coining of scientific names, but they are too much to go into here. Please refer to the references cited above because all the rules are important. Remember that the more you begin to recognize the words which compose the scientific names you use, the more you will learn to appreciate the poetry and sense of the names.

We are sending you one or more of the following items:

1. Name Index to Freshwater Gammaridea
2. Name Index to Marine Gammaridea
3. Geographic Index to Marine Gammaridea

If you want any of the others mentioned above please write to J.L. Barnard, NHB-163, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. 20560, USA

We will be reissuing the above items in the future in updated and more complete form; the data bases are being updated continuously.

If you wish to have future issues please send us a postcard to the above address stating WHICH item you want to receive in the future. Thank you.

We will be happy to learn of needed corrections but please send us only corrections based on literature already published from the years 1758 to 1986. We do not enter unpublished information.